

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KATHMA 01379 041829 Z

45

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 ADP-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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O 041550 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4854

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 1379

E. O. H625 GDS

TAGS: OCON, NP

SUBJ: DEPSEC VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA

EXDIS

ACTION SECSTATE IMMEDIATE NIACT

1. THIS EVENING BHOLA RANA, EDITOR OF SMALL LOCAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY HIMALI BELA, TOLD PAO DOVE HE HAD REPORT ASST SECY SISCO WOULD VISIT NEPAL QUOTE IN A FORTNIGHT UNQUOTE AND PLANNED PRINT THIS STORY TOMORROW. DOVE PHONED ME AND I SPOKE TO BHOLA, WHO FORTUNATELY IS FAIRLY REASONABLE AND WELL- DISPOSED TO US. THOUGH BHOLA SAID HE WAS QUITE SATISFIED WITH AUTHENTICITY OF REPORT HE AGREED TO HOLD PUBLICATION OFF PENDING CHAT WITH ME TOMORROW MORNING, THURSDAY.

2. CONVERSATION WITH DOVE CONFIRMED THAT BHOLA WAS NOT JUST ON FISHING EXPEDITION BUT WAS RECIPIENT OF LEAK, HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT HAVE WHOLE STORY (EG NO MENTION OF DEPSEC) AND WOULD LIKE FURTHER DETAILS, E. G. PRECISE DATES. NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE HAVE NEITHER CONFIRMED WHAT HE HAS NOR GIVEN HIM ANY MORE.

3. CAN YOU GIVE ME ANY GUIDANCE? WHEN WAS DEPT PLANNING TO ANNOUNCE TRIP? CAN I OFFER BHOLA A FEW HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE PLUS OUR EVERLASTING AFFECTION IF HE AGREES TO KEEP QUIET A FEW MORE DAYS? (WE ARE NOT SURE THIS WILL BE VERY EFFECTIVE, AS KATHMANDU IS A SMALL GOSSIPY TOWN AND BHOLA MAY FIGURE, PROBABLY CORRECTLY, THAT SOME OTHER PAPER WILL GET THE SCOOP IF HE HESITATES). IN ANY CASE, YOUR GUIDANCE WOULD BE APPRECIATED AS TO OUR RESPONSE, AS AND WHEN OTHER REPORTS OF THE VISIT SURFACE.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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